

2 ½ d Officer's Letter

EGYPT TO ABERGELE, NORTH WALES

BAPO B 26 AU 82

The cover is cancelled with the **BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE** code **B** circular date stamp dated **26 AU 82**, the day the Army Postal Corps landed at Ismailia and set up operations in the public gardens. Note that the day precedes the month on this second of two recorded covers with this date variety. The cover is also marked with the British traveling post office hand stamp **N.W./T.P.O./M.** It is backstamped **RHYL C SP 5 82** and **ABERGELE A SP 6 82**.



The enclosed letter from Lieutenant Arthur Edmund Sandbach to his father reads in part:

*Transport Oxenholme, 100 miles W of Alexandria / 10:30 p.m., Friday 25 Aug/82*

*"... Tomorrow we shall know our final fate: probably Ismailia. . . We have all been sharpening our swords, browning our helmets & trying our revolvers since we left Malta...."*

A. E. Sandbach served in the Egyptian war of 1882, and was present at the battle of Tel-El-Kebir (Medal with Clasp, Khedive's Star). He also served in the Sudan campaign of 1885, and was present at the engagement at Thakool (Clasp).

Letter from A. E. Sandbach to his Father.

Transport of mules -

100 miles NW of Alexandria.

10 30 pm. Friday 25 Aug 82.

My dear Father.

The bustle and excitement, (I hope without confusion) of disembarkation will begin in a day or two.

We stayed in Malta 3 hrs on Tuesday: and I saw what I could of the place under the guidance of one of our officers, who was there for 2 years. We got plenty of grapes, figs, oranges on board.

The R. E. House where our unmarried officers sleep & breakfast has a most beautiful garden with fountains & grottoes. They mess with the R. A. at the R. A. R. E. mess in the finest mess quarters in Malta. We sailed out of the harbour at 3.30 pm with orders for the Captain of the Ship

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We heard at Malta of the fighting that day with slight British loss & saw no particulars. We have all been sharpening our swords, browning our helmets & trying our revolvers since we left Malta.

I have been as well as possible so far & sleep on deck in my hammock regularly every night. We landed Porter at Malta to go to the hospital there, poor chap. It is a great [?] for him being just out of it so completely by such an unfortunate accident. The wind & sail struck also another & Whitenon too, but only on the legs. He will probably not join us again.

By the R.E. Journal, which will come regularly for me, you may see where I have been. Please keep them. I have them bound always. I wonder whether Martin has landed in Egypt or not. I saw Genl. McPherson had arrived at Suez with the Indian Division. On June 25 he was in Cashmere, so he must have hurried back very much if he is there now. If he is not there I confess I shall be a little disappointed.

Please let Margaret remember me to Alfred & Harriet when they are at Tyre.

Thank you all for letters at Malta. What a horrible loss poor Wm. Roberts will be.

Yr. Affec<sup>d</sup> son,

Arthur E. Sandbach.

I will forward my arrival later.